



General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 November 2018
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Tenth emergency special session

Agenda item 5

**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

**Letter dated 9 July 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to
the President of the General Assembly**

In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, I have the honour to transmit herewith the progress report, dated 22 June 2018, from the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

(Signed) António Guterres

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Annex

Letter dated 22 June 2018 from the members of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to provide the progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for transmission to the General Assembly in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of Assembly resolution ES-10/17 (see enclosure).

We request that the progress report be issued as a document of the General Assembly. Our 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 progress reports were issued as documents A/ES-10/455, A/ES-10/498, A/ES-10/522, A/ES-10/598, A/ES-10/599, A/ES-10/658, A/ES-10/683, A/ES-10/730 and A/ES-10/756, respectively.

(Signed) Ronald **Bettauer**
Member of the Board

(Signed) Harumi **Hori**
Member of the Board

(Signed) Matti **Pellonpää**
Member of the Board

Enclosure

Progress report of the Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

1. The Board of the United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory provides the present progress report, in accordance with paragraph 6 (h) of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17, covering the period from 17 June 2017 to 22 June 2018. The Board's 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 progress reports were contained in documents A/ES-10/455, A/ES-10/498, A/ES-10/522, A/ES-10/598, A/ES-10/599, A/ES-10/658, A/ES-10/683, A/ES-10/730 and A/ES-10/756, respectively. Board progress reports, as well as other basic documents pertinent to the work of the Register of Damage, are posted on the Register's website (www.unrod.org).
2. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage continued to undertake outreach activities in the occupied Palestinian territory in order to collect, process and consider claim forms for inclusion in the Register in accordance with its Rules and Regulations Governing the Registration of Claims.
3. Since its launch in 2008, the community outreach campaign has covered 269 communities with a population of approximately 1.3 million in the governorates of Janin, Tubas, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Salfit, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Thousands of printed posters and leaflets have been distributed to inform potential claimants of the requirements for completing a claim for registration of damage. During the reporting period, more than a hundred meetings were held by the claim intakers of the Register of Damage with governors, mayors, local councils and potential claimants in the areas covered by the outreach campaign. In addition, the Register of Damage organized two specialized seminars for mayors and local council officials from Jerusalem governorate on legal and organizational aspects of claim intake in their communities.
4. By 22 June 2018, 67,235 claim forms for registration of damage and more than 1 million supporting documents had been collected and delivered to the Office of the Register of Damage in Vienna. Claim-intake activities have been carried out in all nine affected governorates: Tubas, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Salfit, Hebron, Ramallah, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
5. As at 22 June 2018, the Board had decided to include in the Register some or all of the losses set out in 30,626 claim forms and to exclude 1,080 claim forms in which none of the losses met the eligibility criteria, bringing the total number of decided claims to 31,706.
6. During the past year, the Office of the Register of Damage continued to process the claim forms at an accelerated pace. However, despite the diligent and dedicated work of the secretariat and the intensive work of the Board, there is a considerable gap between the number of claim forms collected and the number processed by the Office.
7. Since its previous report, the Board has held four meetings in Vienna to review claim forms that had been translated, processed and individually reviewed by Office staff. The Board met from 18 to 22 September and from 11 to 15 December 2017 and from 5 to 9 March and from 18 to 22 June 2018. At the four meetings, the Board reviewed and decided to include in the Register some or all of the losses set out in 919 claim forms, 1,099 claim forms, 829 claim forms and 1,013 claim forms, respectively. It decided not to include 6 claim forms, 1 claim form, 27 claim forms and 22 claim forms, respectively, since none of the losses in the forms met the

eligibility criteria in the Register of Damage's Rules and Regulations. The Board also decided to defer action on one claim form at its meeting in June.

8. The claim forms reviewed during the reporting period included 3,876 containing category A (agriculture) losses, 9 containing category B (commercial) losses, 15 containing category C (residential) losses and 7 containing category E (access to services) losses.

9. The Board, in its review of claims, continued to apply the eligibility criteria in accordance with article 11 of the Rules and Regulations. In view of the limited time available and the large number of claims for losses included in claim forms submitted to the Board for review by Office staff, the Board continued to employ sampling techniques as provided for in article 12 (3) of the Rules and Regulations. During the four meetings covered by the present report, Board members reviewed in detail approximately 10.2 per cent of the claims for losses included on the claim forms submitted for review. As indicated in the Board report of 2012, the Executive Director of the Register consulted a statistician informally concerning the sampling methodology applied by the Board. The level of sampling is within statistical parameters of reliability. Claims that did not meet the eligibility criteria were either excluded from the Register or returned to the claimants so they could provide clarification.

10. Previous Board progress reports identified some of the issues addressed and decisions reached during previous reporting periods. The following are among the issues addressed and decisions reached by the Board during the present reporting period:

(a) Land division agreements: the Board had previously decided that in cases where a land division agreement signed by all the heirs is provided, the agreement constitutes sufficient proof of the relinquishment of shares by the heirs who did not submit a claim, and shares may be recorded in accordance with the land division agreement, even if they differ from the shares set out in the relevant certificate of legacy. During its 2017/18 session, the Board decided that in cases where a land division agreement is signed by some of the heirs only, but purports to concern the shares of all heirs, including those whose signatures are missing, the shares will be recorded as unclear, as such an agreement does not constitute sufficient proof of the relinquishment of all the heirs' shares;

(b) Date of death: in several category A claims, claimants asserted the death of the relative from whom they inherited their shares in the land, but did not provide evidence of the date of the relative's death. In some of those cases, local authorities confirmed that the claimants' relatives had died either "a long time ago" or "before the construction of the Wall". The Board decided that, in the absence of any contradicting information, such confirmation provided by the local authorities will be considered sufficient to establish the claimants' interest in the land at the time of the construction of the Wall;

(c) Inaccurate claimed shares: in the absence of official documents evidencing share allocation, sometimes claimants submit claims for shares ostensibly based on the traditional distribution of shares under sharia law. However, in some claim forms, the claimed shares were entered using an erroneous mathematical formula, resulting in different share values from those that the claimants presumably intended to claim on the basis of sharia law. In such cases, the Board decided that the claimants' shares will be recalculated and recorded according to Islamic inheritance rules;

(d) Competing claims: the Board noted that in several cases where different claimants claimed the same losses, it was not possible to determine which claim was valid on the basis of the information provided. In such cases, the Board decided that,

since each claim appeared to meet the eligibility criteria, they should each be included in the Register with a notation that they are "competing claims";

(e) Duplication: some claimants from the villages of Bayt Kahil, Kafr Dan, Umm Salamuna and Qatanna submitted two category A claims for essentially the same livestock losses, but provided no explanation as to why the second claim was filed. In such cases, the Board decided that the claims with the earlier submission date may be included in the Register, while the claims with a later submission date will be rejected as duplicates;

(f) Position of grazing land in relation to the Green Line: claimants from some villages located near the Green Line submitted claims for losses stemming from the loss of access to private or communal pasture "west" of their villages after the construction of the Wall. Upon examination of maps and satellite images of the areas, it appears that some of the pasture located "west" and "behind" the Wall in relation to the villages is likely to be located on the Israeli side of the Green Line. The Board confirmed that in such cases, loss of access to those areas should be included in the Register if the claimant had unfettered access to the pasture prior to the construction of the Wall, and absent any indication that access had been lost for any reason other than the Wall. The Board took into consideration the fact that livestock grazed in a wide area west of the villages and that there was no demarcation of the Green Line or signs on the terrain, thus making it impossible to determine where the pasture crossed into Israel, and that prior to the Wall the claimants had not been prevented from accessing the area and grazing livestock there;

(g) Grazing in communal land: the Board decided that, in cases in which a person submits a claim for loss of access to grazing areas behind the Wall but has not clarified the basis of the right to use those areas, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary it should be assumed that the claimant used communal pastures and should be recorded as a "user of communal land";

(h) Shadow instances: the Board decided to insert a new explanation into its decision clarifying that "shadow instances" refer to additional instances created by the Office of the Register of Damage in the course of reviewing claims in order to allow the claimant's losses to be recorded more accurately.

11. As before, the Board would like to express its appreciation for the indispensable cooperation extended by the Palestinian National Authority and the Palestinian National Committee for the Register of Damage, as well as for the support provided by local governors, mayors and members of village councils on many practical aspects, without which outreach and claim-intake activities could not be undertaken successfully. As for the Government of Israel, it continues to consider that any claims in relation to damage caused by the construction of the Wall should be addressed through the existing Israeli mechanism. On the practical level, the Executive Director of the Register of Damage continues to maintain constructive contacts with relevant Israeli authorities, and, during the reporting period, the Office of the Register of Damage did not experience any problems with access, the delivery of needed materials or the issuance of required visas. On occasion, the security situation impeded claims-intake activity.

12. The Board of the Register of Damage notes with satisfaction the good cooperation with United Nations agencies and offices present on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, as called for in paragraph 14 of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17. The Board especially appreciates the efficient and tangible contribution provided by the United Nations Office for Project Services in the areas of logistics, procurement, human and financial resources, and management in support of the Register of Damage. During the reporting period, the Register of Damage also

continued to benefit from the advice and assistance of the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs.

13. The outreach and claim-intake activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are conducted by claim intakers of the Register of Damage. As of January 2018, the team of claim intakers was reduced from 10 to 3 staff members in view of the difficulties of raising extrabudgetary contributions. Such voluntary contributions had been received from 21 donors. The Governments of Algeria, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Finland, France, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, the Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and Turkey, as well as the European Commission and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development, have donated more than \$6.7 million. Several Governments, as well as the OPEC Fund, have donated to the Register of Damage two or more times.

14. The Board would like to express its appreciation to those donors for providing funding and political support enabling the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution ES-10/17.

15. The Board commends the staff of the Office of the Register of Damage for their diligent and dedicated work.

16. The Board of the Register of Damage will continue to provide periodic reports.

**General Assembly
Security Council**

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13 November 2018
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory**

Security Council
Seventy-third year

**Identical letters dated 13 November 2018 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

I regret to inform you of the further deterioration of the situation in Occupied Palestine due to the violence and terror that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people under its belligerent, illegal occupation. I am writing to you today specifically to urgently draw the international community's attention to the dangerous situation unfolding in the besieged Gaza Strip, where once again the Palestinian civilian population is facing the terror and trauma of Israeli military aggression.

On 11 November 2018, an Israeli military so-called "undercover unit", using a civilian car and dressed as civilians, in violation of the principle of distinction, entered 3 km (2 miles) inside the Gaza Strip, invading east of Khan Younis city, in the southern Gaza Strip, and killing seven Palestinians. This attack has stoked high tensions and provoked yet another cycle of violence between the two sides that risks further escalation and destabilization, jeopardizing the lives of millions of innocent civilians.

Since yesterday, Israel, the occupying Power, has been carrying out a large-scale assault against civilian areas in the Gaza Strip. These air strikes constitute the most intense military raids and attacks since 2014. Six more Palestinians were killed as a result of the bombing of numerous civilian properties, including a hotel building and a television station building that were targeted and destroyed by the occupying forces. Tensions continue to rise dramatically as a result of such Israeli aggressions, and fear and panic are spreading among the Palestinian civilian population as the bombardment continues and the incitement and inflammatory rhetoric of Israeli government officials continue to escalate.

The extremely fragile situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, risks further destabilization, with untold civilian and humanitarian consequences, if this Israeli aggression is not halted. We call upon the international community to send a clear message, in one unified voice, to demand an immediate



de-escalation in order to prevent a full-blown conflagration and save innocent civilian lives.

We renew our call to the international community, specifically the Security Council, to act forthwith to uphold its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council is also duty-bound to act in accordance with its own resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016) and the relevant provisions therein, as well in respect of the fundamental tenets of international law, including international humanitarian law as it pertains to the rights and protection of civilians in armed conflict, including foreign occupation.

We reiterate our urgent appeals for the protection of the Palestinian civilian population under Israel's occupation, including in the Gaza Strip, which is today yet again under siege and attack. The Palestinian people must be guaranteed protection and cannot remain the exception to the responsibility to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict from such devastating atrocities and flagrant breaches of the law.

The State of Palestine reaffirms its commitment to the rule of international law, including international humanitarian law, and its opposition to all actions that constitute violations of international law.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 650 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 30 October 2018 (A/ES-10/799-S/2018/968), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

**General Assembly
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14 December 2018

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**General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Security Council
Seventy-third year****Identical letters dated 11 December 2018 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to draw your urgent attention to the escalation of inflammatory rhetoric, incitement and intimidation by both Israeli officials and extremist settlers against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership, as well as the escalation of military raids and violence perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

Israel, the occupying Power, persists with such unlawful, provocative behaviour in deliberate and grave breach of international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, including its systematic violation of Security Council resolution 2334 (2016), in which the Council called upon both parties, inter alia, "to observe calm and restraint, and to refrain from provocative actions, incitement and inflammatory rhetoric, with the aim, inter alia, of de-escalating the situation on the ground". The exact opposite has been done by the Israeli government, which continues to foment hatred and violence against the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation and against the Palestinian leadership. This reckless behaviour is heightening tensions, deepening mistrust and threatens to provoke further instability and violence, which must be averted in order to protect civilian lives.

Such inflammatory rhetoric and incitement has included specific threats against Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. In recent days, posters depicting President Abbas in the target of a sniper and openly calling for his assassination have been hung by extremist Israeli settlers, in particular in the Nablus area of the occupied West Bank. Such condemnable incitement must be halted and the Israeli government must be held fully responsible for any harm or consequences that may ensue as a result of the actions of its illegal settlers against our people and leadership.

Israel, the occupying Power, must be demanded to condemn such extremist acts, whether by individual settlers or terror groups like the "Hilltop Youth" and the "Price Tag" settlers militias, or others, and to hold accountable the perpetrators of any such



crimes. It cannot be that the international community turns a blind eye to the Israeli government's responsibility for fostering such a toxic environment, for its open facilitation and support of such threats and acts of violence and terror and continued provocations against holy sites in Occupied East Jerusalem, including at Al-Aqsa Mosque and at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus, among other sites.

The occupying Power must also be demanded to cease its acts of military aggression against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population. In recent days, numerous military raids have been carried out throughout the occupied West Bank, including in Bethlehem, Al-Khalil (Hebron), Ramallah, Birah, Qalqilyah and Tulkarm and surrounding villages. A young Palestinian man, Omar Hassan al-Awawdeh, age 27, was killed on 11 December in one of the raids in a village near Al-Khalil when he was shot in his back by Israeli occupying forces. The brutal manner of his killing is similar to the recent killing on 4 December of another young mentally disabled Palestinian, Mohammed Habali, age 22, when occupying forces raided the city of Tulkarm and shot him in his back and killed him.

In addition to the killing and injury of Palestinian civilians, the Israeli occupying forces also continue the systematic practice of detaining and arresting Palestinians, the overwhelming majority without charge, adding to the nearly 6,000 Palestinian men, women and children who continue to be held captive in Israel's jails. In the past 24 hours, more than 28 Palestinians have been detained as the occupying forces have escalated their violent and retributive raids following a shooting attack by an unidentified assailant that injured several Israeli settlers over the weekend.

Moreover, the Israeli occupying forces continue to damage and destroy Palestinian property in the course of the violent raids being conducted. Among such raids was the raid on 10 December of the city of Ramallah, in so-called "Area A", where Israel facetiously claims that the Palestinian government has "full control", as per the Oslo Accords, and where numerous Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles entered the city and raided several national institutions. This includes the raid on the premises of the Wafa News Agency, from which several documents were seized and at which property was destroyed.

Of course, all the while, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its endless acts of collective punishment against the Palestinian people, whether it be its suffocating blockade of the 2 million civilians in the Gaza Strip, or its severe movement restrictions against the civilians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, via its vast network of settlements, the wall, bypass roads and hundreds of checkpoints, along with other acts of collective punishment, including home demolitions and evictions. In this regard, on 8 December, Jawhar and Murad Hashimeh were forced by the occupying authorities to demolish their two family homes, built at least 20 years ago in Silwan in Occupied East Jerusalem, under the offensive pretext that the homes had been built without Israeli permits, which it is widely known are nearly impossible for Palestinians to acquire. This demolition left 14 family members homeless, adding to the thousands who have been dispossessed and displaced by this inhumane and illegal Israeli policy.

This is just a glimpse of the disturbing reality prevailing in Occupied Palestine as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to impose its illegal foreign occupation on our people and land, violating every international norm, every relevant United Nations resolution and every human right of the Palestinian people. We call upon the international community, including the Security Council, to act to bring an end to such lawlessness and impunity and to demand that Israel, the occupying Power, respect all its legal obligations and that it cease all acts of incitement and provocation against the Palestinian people and their leadership. It is urgent that efforts be undertaken to avert a further escalation and destabilization of the situation on the

ground in order to salvage whatever slim hopes and chances remain for realizing a just, lasting and peaceful solution to this grave injustice.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 651 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 November 2018 (A/ES-10/802-S/2018/1017) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**

Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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17 December 2018

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Security Council**
Seventy-third year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the
rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 14 December 2018 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing today to draw urgent attention to the dangerous deterioration of the situation on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to act in a lawless and aggressive manner, fuelling a new cycle of violence, intensifying inflammatory rhetoric and incitement, causing more civilian casualties, including by the perpetration of extrajudicial killings, and further entrenching its illegal colonial occupation, in grave violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions.

As the present letter is being written, Israeli occupying forces continue to carry out violent military raids in Palestinian villages, towns, cities and refugee camps, terrorizing the civilian population, harming civilian life, and arresting and detaining more people, especially young males. In recent days, several Palestinian civilians have been hunted down and killed by Israeli occupying forces in punitive, extrajudicial military operations aimed at exacting revenge on the population following the killing of three Israeli soldiers. In just a 24-hour timespan, Israeli occupying forces carried out the execution of four Palestinian civilians: Ashraf Naalweh (age 23), Salah Omar Barghouti (age 29), Hamdan Tawfiq al-Ardah (age 60) and Majd Muteir.

These operations have been carried out in conjunction with countless raids by the occupying forces and armed, extremist settlers, who persist in their rampages under the protection of the occupying forces with absolute impunity for their attacks on the defenceless Palestinian civilian population and the destruction they are systematically and deliberately causing in their terror campaign. This has included attacks on various villages, such as in the Nablus area or in Ayn Yabrud, in the occupied West Bank, where settlers opened gunfire on Palestinian homes, all while being accompanied by the occupying Israeli army. In several instances, attacks by settler militias have provoked clashes with Palestinian civilians seeking to defend and protect themselves from the occupation's barbarity.



In this regard, we must recall that such brutal attacks against the Palestinian civilian population constitute, inter alia, grave breaches of article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, which clearly states that "no protected person may be punished for an offense he or she has not personally committed. Collective penalties and likewise all measures of intimidation or of terrorism are prohibited. Pillage is prohibited. Reprisals against protected persons and their property are prohibited".

In addition to the occupying Power's military raids, inflammatory rhetoric and incitement by the Israeli government and military continue to foster a dangerous environment, further encouraging violence towards the Palestinian people and their leadership, including continuing hateful rhetoric specifically targeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and threatening his life. Such incitement and provocation must be condemned and must be halted by the Israeli government, which is responsible for any harm done to President Abbas and the people of Palestine.

At the same time, I must draw your attention to the occupying Power's continuing illegal colonization of occupied Palestinian land, using every pretext and excuse, including as a means of collective punishment for acts of violence, which cannot in any way justify this unlawful behaviour, including in particular in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. In this regard, the Israeli Prime Minister has cynically and provocatively announced his intentions to entrench thousands of Israeli settlement units in the occupied West Bank through so-called "legalization" measures and is pursuing the construction of 82 new housing units in the illegal settlement of Ofra, near where certain incidents of violence occurred earlier this week, as well as two new industrial zones near the illegal settlements of Avne Hefetz and Beitar Elit.

As we approach the second anniversary of the Security Council's adoption of resolution 2334 (2016), it is also imperative to recall the Council's explicit reaffirmation that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity" and the Council's demand that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and that it fully respect all its legal obligation in this regard. Israel's contempt of the Council cannot go unanswered, for it is apparent that failure to hold the occupying Power accountable will only embolden it to continue its illegal settlement campaign throughout the Palestinian land, regardless of international law, United Nations resolutions and the will of the international community.

We must also recall that, just one week ago, on 6 December, the General Assembly resoundingly reaffirmed the international consensus in this regard with the adoption of resolution 73/89, presented by Ireland and entitled "Comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East". In that resolution, the Assembly explicitly reiterated its call for "the achievement, without delay, of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions, including resolution 2334 (2016, of 23 December 2016, the Madrid terms of reference, including the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, and an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967, including of East Jerusalem", reaffirming the longstanding, internationally endorsed basis for a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as the international community's unwavering support for the two-State solution of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders, based on the pre-1967 borders.

We call urgent attention to the above-mentioned Israeli violations – of illegal settlement construction expansion, killing of Palestinian civilians, collective punishment of the Palestinian population and incitement against the Palestinian people and their leadership – and the dangerous consequences should they persist.

The international community, including the Security Council, must act responsibly to convey a clear message to Israel, the occupying Power, that all such illegal policies and practices must be ceased and that Israel will be held fully accountable for its failure to comply with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions. We appeal to the Security Council to act with urgency to address this critical situation, in line with its duties under the Charter of the United Nations and its own resolutions, including in particular resolution 2334 (2016), including the necessary measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian civilian population under this cruel and illegal Israel occupation.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 652 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. Those letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 December 2018 (A/ES-10.803-S/2018/1107) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all those war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

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(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**

Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations